

erupted when a series of armed incursions into Guinea from Liberia and Sierra Leone provoked a violent reaction on the part of Guinean authorities who rounded up and arrested thousands of foreigners, including refugees, accusing them of aiding the attackers.

On Sunday, in the town of Macenta, Mensah Kpognon, a Togolese employee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was killed, and another UNHCR worker from the Ivory Coast, Sapeu Laurence Djeya, was abducted by unidentified attackers. Reports indicate that dozens of civilians were also killed in the raid.

This terrible tragedy marks the fourth murder of a UNHCR worker in less than two weeks. Three others, including an American citizen, Carlos Caceres, were murdered on September 6, 2000 in Atambua, West Timor by a militia mob while Indonesian armed forces and police failed to stop the violence.

These terrible crimes, committed against individuals who dedicated their lives to helping others in need, must not continue. All responsible members of the international community must work together to provide security for the humanitarian workers laboring in difficult conditions around the globe. Governments in the region must ensure that those responsible for these acts must be held accountable for their actions. Cross-border raids into Guinea must be stopped. And most urgently, the governments of West Africa must work to find Sapeu Laurence Djeya and to ensure her safety and freedom.

THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the International Academic Opportunity Act introduced by Senator's LUGAR, FEINGOLD, COLLINS and me. This bill provides \$1.5 million in scholarships to low income college students to finance their study abroad. It is estimated that this program will help over 300 students in its first year. I believe that this legislation will provide needed resources to help low income students compete in today's global marketplace.

In this era of globalization, it has become imperative for America's students to be prepared to operate in an international environment and economy. By studying abroad, students will be exposed to different languages and cultures that will help them become the successful leaders in the future.

This scholarship, otherwise referred to as the Gilman Scholarship Act, because it was the developed by the Hon. BENJAMIN GILMAN of New York, will provide up to \$5000 per student for their study abroad. Mr. GILMAN targeted these scholarships to low income students who otherwise would not have been able to consider a study abroad

program. I believe that by increasing the number of students that will benefit from an international education we can only enhance the capacity of our citizens to participate in a global society.

This legislation passed unanimously in the House and I hope that we will be able to pass it in the Senate before the end of session. I urge leadership and my fellow Senators to support a swift and unhindered passage.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 19, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,658,234,946,688.07, five trillion, six hundred fifty-eight billion, two hundred thirty-four million, nine hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and seven cents.

Five years ago, September 19, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,965,955,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-five billion, nine hundred fifty-five million.

Ten years ago, September 19, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,232,292,000,000, three trillion, two hundred thirty-two billion, two hundred ninety-two million.

Fifteen years ago, September 19, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,102,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred two million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 19, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$550,758,000,000, five hundred fifty billion, seven hundred fifty-eight million which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,107,476,946,688.07, five trillion, one hundred seven billion, four hundred seventy-six million, nine hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and seven cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOAB M. LESESNE, JR.

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, now here is one thing with which I can agree, and not be in a minority. Dr. Joab M. Lesesne, Jr. has not only headed Wofford College with distinction for 28 years, but he has brought luster to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities as its Chairman. A man of many talents, Joe served as a general in the South Carolina National Guard and is presently Chairman of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Governing Board. Dr. Shi, the eminent President of Furman University, cites this record better than I in a recent editorial in the Greenville News. I ask that the editorial be reprinted in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the Greenville News, Sept. 17, 2000]

JOE LESESNE STANDS AS A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

(By David Shi)

In an age with few heroes, it becomes even more important to honor those who stand above the crowd. Last week, Furman University had the privilege of bestowing an honorary doctoral degree on Joab Lesesne, the recently retired president of Wofford College. He had served it well—with a special genius that everyone observed yet no one can define.

Joe Lesesne was raised on a college campus. His father, a Wofford graduate, served as president of Erskine College. After graduating from Erskine, the younger Lesesne went on to earn his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from the University of South Carolina. He began his career at Wofford in 1964 as an assistant professor of history, and he soon distinguished himself in the classroom. Lesesne was a luminous teacher who made the past shine with interest and significance.

Professor Lesesne was appointed assistant dean in 1967. Soon thereafter, he implemented the college's interim term, a four-week winter learning program that has become an indispensable part of a Wofford education. He later became director of development and then dean of the college. In 1972, at the ripe age of 34, he was named Wofford's ninth president.

Lesesne quickly realized that going from the faculty to the presidency means abandoning righteousness for pragmatism. He also discovered that a college president needs the endurance of an athlete, the wisdom of a Solomon and the courage of a lion. But perhaps most important is to have the stomach of a goat in order to accommodate all of the civic club luncheons, campus banquets and meals-on-the-run.

As a resolute champion of the distinctive virtues of residential liberal arts colleges, Lesesne led Wofford through a remarkable era of progress, change and achievement. The college's endowment soared during his long tenure, new buildings were constructed, and he helped attract a stronger, more diverse faculty and student body. Along the way, President Lesesne displayed extraordinary composure and resilience. Hard to surprise and even harder to shock, he displayed the magnanimity of a saint in dealing with complaints and crises.

President Lesesne became a leader of national prominence within the higher education community. He was the first Southerner to chair the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he headed the council of presidents of South Carolina's private colleges. In addition, he is a retired major general in the South Carolina Army National Guard, and he continues to chair the South Carolina Commission on Natural Resources.

Yet the real value of a career can sometimes be better gauged by a person's character than by a public portfolio. Joe Lesesne is a genial representative of a fast vanishing world of grace, civility, loyalty, faith and moral rectitude. A warm man with a big heart, he has no enemies—even among those who disagree with him. Known for his casual intensity and refreshing humility, he loves to tell stores and to catch fish.

For almost 30 years as a college president, Joe Lesesne manifested unshaken nerve, rescuing wit, and, above all, a love for Wofford

that has never waned. He had a special affection for students. He teased them, entertained them, inspired them and guided them. They responded with equal affection.

It has been invigorating for those of us still in our age of impetuous vanities to associate with such a wise colleague. I cannot imagine anyone more effective at helping the people of this state appreciate the important role played by Wofford and the other private liberal arts colleges. Joe Lesesne is one of those refreshing people who prefers to grin rather than scowl, banter rather than pontificate. What a wonderful mentor he has been to me and many others.

In his compassionate awareness of others, in his instinctive respect for them, in his declared willingness to help, in his courtesy, tolerance and gentleness, Joe Lesesne demonstrated that the highest intelligence is at its most fertile and expressive when allied to the deepest humanity. As to all of these traits, he has provided us the great gift of his example. Blessed are those who perform good works and earn our respect and admiration. Thanks, Joe.●

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate and welcome to our Nation's Capitol the two middle schools and two high schools from Maryland that have been named Blue Ribbon School Award winners by the United States Department of Education. These schools are among only 198 middle and high schools nationwide to be honored with this award, the most prestigious national school recognition for public and private schools.

The designation as a Blue Ribbon School is a ringing endorsement of the successful techniques which enable the students of these schools to succeed and achieve. Over the past few years, I have made a commitment to visit the Blue Ribbon Schools and have always been delighted to see first hand the interaction between parents, teachers, and the community, which strongly contributed to the success of the school. I look forward to visiting each of these four schools and congratulating the students, teachers and staff personally for this exceptional accomplishment.

According to the Department of Education, Blue Ribbon Schools have been judged to be particularly effective in meeting local, state and national goals. These schools also display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools which have strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality teaching; challenging, up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; a solid commitment to family involvement; evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards; and a commitment to share the best practices with other schools.

After a screening process by each State Department of Education, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Council for American Private Education, the Blue Ribbon School nominations were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education. A panel of outstanding educators from around the country then reviewed the nominations, selected schools for site visits, and made recommendations to Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

The four winning Maryland secondary schools are as follows:

Baltimore City College High School: founded in 1839 is the third oldest public high school in the country. A college preparatory magnet high school emphasizing the liberal arts and serving students and parents in Baltimore, City College sends 95 percent of its graduates to post-secondary institutions and, in doing so, has played a part in the American dream—preparing students to succeed in college as well as giving them day-to-day experience in working with people of all backgrounds to lead in the community.

Bel Air Middle School: located in Harford County, is a high-performing model of teaching and learning because of its outstanding academic programs and the high level of commitment from teachers, students, local businesses, and parents. Bel Air Middle School has developed an integrated assessment program entitled, "Student Achievement and Improvement through Lifelong Learning", SAIL, which has been recognized nationally by the National Council of Teachers of English. Additionally, Bel Air Middle School has a literacy Team, which provides the faculty with ongoing professional development, particularly in the areas of reading and writing.

Paint Branch High School: in Burtonsville, Montgomery County, offers a dynamic and innovative whole-school signature program in science and the media. In addition to delivering a rigorous, comprehensive high school program with a full complement of honors and advanced placement classes and additional support related, community service, and extra-curricular experiences emphasizing research and experimentation. Several business partnerships support the largest internship program in the county, with nearly 170 students this year earning credit at such sites as the National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Discovery Communication, Inc., and Black Entertainment Television.

Plum Point Middle School: in Huntingtown, Calvert County, exhibits enthusiasm and strength which grows from school-wide philosophy that considers each member valuable and every minute important. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of educational and extracurricular activi-

ties. Over 75 percent of its students are involved in after-school activities. The school has been county athletic champion 13 times in various sports. Over 20 percent of the teaching staff have been award winners—including Maryland's 1999 Teacher of the Year, Rachael Younkens.●

RECOGNITION OF CLAIRE HOWARD

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Claire Howard of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania who will serve as President of the USA Council of Serra International next year. This is a most noteworthy accomplishment, as she is the first woman ever to serve in this high capacity. I would like to insert the following article into the RECORD, which was printed in the Allentown Diocese Times on August 3, 2000:

Claire Howard of Bethlehem was installed as President-Elect by United States Serra clubs at the annual Serra International Convention in Kansas City. She will serve a one-year term as President-Elect on the USA/Canada Council Board. In 2001, she will become the first woman President of not only the USA Council, but also the first in Serra International's 65-year history.

As President-Elect of the USA Council (USAC) of Serra International, a worldwide organization that works to foster and promote Catholic religious vocations, she will work closely with the national staff and local Serra clubs, and assist the president as needed. She also serves as a liaison with the council's 13 standing committees.

"I'm looking forward to making sure we all really commit ourselves to the ministry of building up the body of Christ through our Serran work," Howard said.

A charter member of the Serra Club of Bethlehem, Howard has served two years as club President. An active member over the years, she has served on almost all the standing committees.

Her future seat as president is not Howard's only "first" in Serra International; she has trail-blazed the way for women in Serra for years, ascending steadily through the ranks of the organizational structure. In 1993, she was the first woman to serve as District Governor of Serra International and in 1994 became the first regional representative (again the first woman) of Region 3 of the then newly formed USA/Canada Council of Serra International.

She has chaired USACC's Meetings and Conventions Committee, which is responsible for coordination of the fall regional conventions in the 13 regions of the United States and Canada. In recent years she has served as USA Council Vice President for the Membership and Programs committees.

For the past six years, she has been the Coordinator of the Serra Clubs of the Allentown Diocese's "Life/Vocation Awareness Weekend," working closely with diocesan Director of Vocations the Rev. Francis A. Nave. The weekend offers any adult who would like to explore the possibilities of entering the priesthood or a religious order a time of reflection, prayer and interaction with priests and religious [leaders].

Howard was also appointed by the Most Rev. Edward P. Cullen, D.D., Bishop of Allentown, to be the Serran representative for the Allentown Diocese Vocation Recruitment Committee.